Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
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R 081458Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5174 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: BEN PORAT LEAVES LABOR PARTY

- 1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: LABOR K MORDECHAI BEN-PORAT DECLARED IN A LETTER TO KNESSET SPEAKER YISRAEL YESHAYAHU MARCH 7 THAT HE IS WITHDRAWING FROM THE LABOR PARTY AND FOR THE PRESENT TIME WILL FORM A SEPARATE KNESSET FACTION WITH THE NAME OF "YAHDAV" (TOGETHER). IN ANOTHER LETTER TO LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ZARMI, BEN PORAT EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS QUITING THE LABOR PARTY IN THE WAKE OF "DICTATES BY MAPAM." HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT THE PARTY'S PLATFORM FOR PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, HE COULD NOT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT WAS BASED ON "A TRUNCATED ALLON PLAN." BEN-PORAT'S DEPARTURE LEAVES THE ALIGNMENT WITH 49 KNESSET SEATS. END UNCLASSIFIED.
- 2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: BEN-PORAT WAS A MEMBER OF THE RAFI FACTION OF THE LABOR PARTY AND A FOLLOWER OF MOSHE DAYAN. SPECULATION WAS RIFE EVEN BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION THAT BEN PORAT, UNHAPPY WITH THE DOVISH NEW LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT FOREIGN POLICY PLANK, MIGHT QUIT THE PARTY. SINCE THE CONVENTION APPROVED THE DRAFT, FOLLOWING THE DEFEAT OF DAYAN'S ATTEMPTS AT STIFFENING THE WORDING (TEL AVIV 1426), BEN PORAT'S DEFECTION CAME AS NO SURPRISE. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL CAMPAIGN FOR THE NINTH KNESSET (TO BE ELECTED

MAY 17) AS A SEPARATE PARTY. MORE LIKELY, BEN PORAT, WHO HAS LONG BEEN SONSIDERED A HARD-LINER, WILL JOIN THE LA'AM FACTION OF THE LIKUD. A MAJOR PART OF LA'AM CONSISTS OF FORMER RAFI MEMBERS. ANOTHER, THOUGH MORE REMOTE POSSIBILITY, IS THAT BEN PROAT WILL JOIN ARIK SHARON'S SHLOMZION PARTY. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: BEN PORAT LEAVES LABOR PARTY

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